

CODSALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at

The Parish Council Chambers, Station Road, Codsall.

On Wednesday 15th May 2019, 7.00pm – following Planning.

Three members of the public were present.

PRESENT: Parish & County Councillor: B Spencer (Outgoing Chairman);

Parish Councillors: M Adams, Mrs S Adams, Mrs V Chapman, Mrs K Ewart, B Holland (Chairman), T Jeavons, I Kenyon, Mrs A Morrison, P Wright;

Parish & District Councillors: Mrs M Barrow

Before the meeting commenced the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Spencer advised the meeting that he has enjoyed the last two years, first as as Vice Chairman, second year as Chairman, he then went on to say that he is grateful for the support from Cllr. Barrow in her role as Chairman during his term as Vice Chairman, prior to becoming Chairman, and to Cllrs Chapman and Holland as mentors. He went onto to thank all the Councillors round the table for their support during his term in office.

Cllr Spencer then went on to inform the meeting what his personal highlights have been during his term: the opening of the Oaken Field Car Park after wondering if it would ever happen. How it has eased problematic parking, since opening the car park there has been a 70% improvement, cars now park at the car park. Parking problem areas were Princes Gardens, Princes Drive, top of Birches Road, Oaken Park, and by the War Memorial on Station Road. The Car Park has helped people who were blighted with parked cars; The new MUGA at Codsall Village Hall is a great success, well used and an excellent facility.

The Chairman then went on to say that there have been mistakes made which has been highlighted by the Internal Audit, he takes full responsibility, however we will put it right and move forward in a positive way.

Cllr Spencer said in all that the Parish Council has achieved shows how well we can overcome these hurdles and how we can work together.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Carpenter, Jenkinson, Loftus and Michell.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND NOTIFICATION OF REQUESTS RECEIVED FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident said for balance to the Chairman's speech, one car had been broken into at the new car park at Oaken Field.

Councillor Barrow advised that the incident should serve us all, as a warning not to leave items on display in our vehicles.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Chapman said Cllr Spencer has been a good steady Chairman, each person in the role brings a unique take as Chairman and so a huge thank you, Cllr Spencer.

In accordance with Standing Order VI.2.i Cllr Bob Spencer proposed current Vice Chairman, Councillor Brian Holland as Chairman; this was seconded by Cllr Jeavons and unanimously **approved** by the meeting.

Following the election, Councillor Holland took the seat of Chairman from Cllr Spencer and immediately signed the Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Holland advised the meeting that it was an honour to be elected and wished to say thank you to the outgoing Chairman Bob Spencer.

The newly elected Chairman then went onto to say moving forward, it is an important time for the Parish Council and the residents of Codsall; the main issue is that of planning, and how the village will expand in the future. The public meeting held by the Parish Council at the Village Hall in November 2018 was important for the residents of Codsall. Codsall Parish Council needs to work with South Staffordshire Council on this, to ensure we are singing from the same hymn sheet.

The Chairman then reminded Councillors of the Council's Civic Service to be held on 2nd June and hoped all would be able to come along and recognise the good work of the volunteers in the Parish of Codsall. The Chairman informed the meeting that the new vicar of St. Nicholas' Rev'd Margaret Mattocks will be conducting the service for the first time, she is extremely enthusiastic.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Cllr Holland proposed Councillor Val Chapman as Vice Chairman; this was seconded by Councillor Bob Spencer. There were no other nominations proposed. Councillor Val Chapman was **approved** by the meeting and immediately signed the Acceptance of Office.

6. NOMINATIONS AND APPROVAL for Signatories to Bank and other accounts being Councillors Barrow, Chapman, Jeavons and Kenyon.

7. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th April 2019 be approved and signed as a true record.

8. POLICE REPORT

8.1 Crime figures for Codsall & Bilbrook

Police Crime and ASB Report - 14.3.19 to 7.4.19 was **received and noted.** Councillor Ewart advised that she had phoned the Police with regard to parking problems in Church Road, because if emergency vehicles needed to get through on that day, they would not have been able to, as vehicles had parked adjacent to each other blocking the road.

Cllr Wright mentioned about a car that had been broken in to on Wood Road. Cllr Holland wondered if advisory notices could be put on cars along Church Road by the PCSO's as they did on Station Road.

Cllr Chapman informed the meeting that the pavements on Church Road are lethal to pedestrians and is being exacerbated by cars parking on them.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Rev'd Margaret Mattocks had called into the Parish Office and advised that she is looking into the possibility of holding an informal meeting with local businesses and organisations who operate in Church Road to see if they all could encourage their visitors to park in the public car parks. Rev'd Margaret Mattocks also advised that she would look at updating St Nicholas Church's website regarding parking.

Cllr Spencer said it is encouraging to hear that the vicar is looking at providing information to their users on where best to park.

Cllr Holland advised that he thought that the Parish Council and local members should be involved on the issue of parking. Cllr. Holland also suggested a one-way system to ease the problems on Church Road.

Cllr Barrow advised that Wombourne church, if needed, put out bollards on pavements to stop the cars parking there; could this be done on Church Road?

The meeting **resolved:**

- the Clerk to write to Rev'd Margaret Mattocks to ask if the Parish Council could be involved in the informal meeting of local businesses and organisations on Church Road.
- Cllr Spencer to look into at all options before any traffic management is to be considered.

9. URGENT CORRESPONDENCE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

9.1 **Annual Review of Standing Orders** proposed amendments to Standing Orders, (amendments in blue) were received. **Resolved** approval and adoption of the draft standing orders.

9.2 **Annual Review of Financial Regulations** - were received and considered. No amendments were proposed.

9.3 **Insurance renewal** – insurance renewal at a maximum cost of £2,771.15, (current insurer renewal quote £4,628.01) was received and considered. **Resolved** that the Clerk to takes out a Policy for the Parish Council's Annual Insurance with either of the two Insurance companies identified in the quotation differentiator.

9.4 The Pensions Regulator - a letter from the Pensions Regulator to confirm Codsall Parish Council has completed a re-declaration of compliance was **received and noted.**

9.5 Station Road Parking - an email regarding on-street parking on Station Road at Codsall train station was **received and noted.**

The meeting agreed that parking had improved since the car park had opened and were hopeful that the parking on Station Road would also be resolved overtime.

Cllr Barrow then advised that there appears to be an increase in motorists who are parking in disabled spaces, but not displaying a Blue Badge, within the village centre car parks.

The Clerk advised the meeting that incidents of illegal parking in disabled spaces can be reported online, on County Council's website:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Highways/Parking-and-enforcement/On-Street-Parking/Problem-parking/Report-problem-parking/Report-problem-parking-online.aspx

Resolved that the clerk: emails Cllrs the website link; to upload the link onto the Parish Council's website.

9.6 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association - Local Councillor Training Course - an email from SPCA with dates for Local Councillor Training Courses during May and June were **received and noted.**

Councillors wishing to attend are to advise the Clerk.

9.7 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association - Chairmanship Training Course - an email from SPCA for Chairmanship Skills Training Course on Wednesday 12th June was **received and noted.**

Councillors wishing to attend are to advise the Clerk.

10. ACCOUNTS

10.1 Resolved that a report on Council Finances for the year to 30th April 2019 be approved.

10.2 Resolved that the Payment Schedule to the 15th May 2019 be approved.

10.3 Confirmation by the Chairman of the authorisation of the Clerk's time sheet.
Matter of report.

11. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from County Councillor Bob Spencer:

- In summary, the financial situation across the County was to make savings of 35m. Adult social care and looked after children takes 90% of Counties budget, adult social care and looked after children equates to 4-5% of Staffordshire's population.
- Despite years of austerity, County Council has balanced its books, and has a history of good financial management. Due to austerity measures however, there is an ever- growing need for Parish councils to work together with County and District Council.
- County Councillors have a fund of 2.5k for good causes, if anyone knows who may benefit from this, to let him know.
- Highways – Category 3 potholes are being addressed.

- The extra highways budget is to be split between the Chillington estate and parking. Not all of the residents of Chillington estate can agree, however Cllr Spencer advised that they are rapidly approaching an agreement.
- Councillor Bob Spencer advised the meeting that his highways budget of £20,000 can only be used for footpaths and pavements, not roads, as road repairs should fall under AMEY's contract. A list of works is being compiled and from the list, we will prioritise one or two projects only, due to the health & safety checks that are required to be undertaken which costs money, plus the cost of temporary traffic lights will all eat into the available funds. Some pavements have gone past repair such as the Wheel estate, so these projects will not be considered within the list of potential projects to be funded by the highway grant.
- Gully cleaning has now been undertaken, if any have been missed, Cllrs should let him know.
- There is a broken drain in Oaken Park.

Cllr Spencer then advised that it has been a good year as a County Councillor, if challenging at times.

Cllr Chapman asked how County Council came to the decision to change its mind and now to continue to provide school crossing patrols.

Cllr Spencer advised that this was due to a number of issues, 35m of savings are needed to be made, the County Council does not legally have to provide school crossing patrols, or the school bus from Perton to Codsall High School, but it did in the past and so is controversial now that they are considering withdrawing the service.

Cllr Chapman said Church Road pavements would be ruined again by parked cars and perhaps the parking should be addressed before any repairs are undertaken.

Cllr Holland asked about the increase to council tax due to the demand in child services and adult social care provision. Cllr Spencer replied there is a green paper regarding this, we will have to wait and see if any additional funding will become available in the future.

Cllr Holland said that Church Lane and Sandy Lane have a lot of weeds growing in the gutter, grass and hedges are not being cut. Cllr Spencer replied the weed killer is weak so not necessarily effective due to it getting into the water course. Hedges not cut due to nesting birds and insects. South Staffordshire Council will sweep the streets on a regular basis.

Cllr Holland asked about the traffic management count that took place, could the Parish Council see the feedback on this. Cllr Spencer replied that it is not necessarily useful, the bottom slowest vehicles such as bikes are ignored, the top fast vehicles are also not counted, which leaves the middle range of vehicles. Cllr Holland said it would be useful to see how many vehicles are passing through the Parish.

12. CODSALL VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings held 18th March 2019 were received and considered. Cllr Barrow updated the meeting on the Bingo that is being held at the Village Hall, it is for all ages, lonely etc. There are around 26 attendees on average, with an opportunity to talk and have some cake. It is proving popular and bringing people in. The Village Hall are now looking to hold Pringo which is bingo with prosecco four times a year, the first Pringo was a great success as it appeals to different age groups and brings in a lot of money for the Village Hall. Cllr Spencer said there is a need for the facility, it helps with social inclusion, it caters for all age groups, people will go to things they like.

13. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from District Councillors:

Cllr Barrow advised that there has only been one meeting since the elections and that was for setting-up Committees.

14 OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Parish Councils Association – bulletins dated 11th, 18th, 19th, 25th April and 2nd May were **received and noted.**

14.2 2019 European Elections – South Staffordshire Council bulletin was **received and noted.**

14.3 Staffordshire County Council Updates – April 2019 newsletter was **received and noted.**

14.4 H M Revenue & Customs – Employer Bulletin for April 2019, issue 77 was **received and noted.**

14.5 National Association of Local Councillors – newsletter for PR6-19 – Affordable Housing Commission was **received and noted.**

14.6 National Association of Local Councillors – a Guide to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Parish and Town Councils was **received and noted.**

Resolved that the Clerk compiles a report on CIL and for the item to be brought back to the meeting of 12th June 2019

14.7 Codsall Station Car Park – a resident's letter of thanks was **received and noted.**

15. HIGHWAY ISSUES

None

NEXT MEETING

12th June 2019

[Meeting closed 8.12pm]